**Grammar Spotlight- Colons and Semi Colons**

**Colons look like this- : No, it is not only used to make smiley faces!**

**1. Use a colon to set off words in a list IF there is long pause before the list.**

**Correct: Bring the following items to school tomorrow : (BIG PAUSE) pencils, rulers, and paper.**

**Correct: For the trip, you need to purchase these things: a backpack, a tent, a sleeping bag, and a tarp.**

**Incorrect: My sister wanted: a furbie, a pillow pet, and a DS for Christmas.**

**Correct: My sister wanted a furbie, a pillow pet, and a DS for Christmas.**

**2. Use a colon when writing the time.**

**10:15 A.M. 3:27 p.m.**

**3. Use a colon after the salutation in a business, formal letter.**

**Dear Mayor Smith: Dear Mrs. Obama:**

**4. Use a colon to set off an important idea.**

**Directions: Write the correct answer**

**Semicolons look like ; they aren’t just used for making winking emojis!**

**1. Use a semicolon to join a compound sentence IF you don’t use a comma or conjunction.**

**Correct: I went to the store; it was closed.**

**Correct: Freedom is important; we forget this.**

**Incorrect: Last night, I watched “The Voice”; and it was interesting!**

**Practice: Add commas, semicolons, and colons as necessary!**

**1.Don’t send me the letter deliver it please!**

**2. Before our government existed people relied on the British this however wouldn’t last for long.**

**3. At our garage sale we sold several valuable items including a Pez dispenser a used cat litter box and three unused diapers.**

**4. During the test you will need to know the following concepts erosion chemical weathering and chronic halitosis.**

**5. The use of a fog machine was approved but at 1037 the fire alarm was set off.**

**6. Listen I have given you what you need a compass a map a whistle and a first-aid kit don’t get lost or injured.**

**7. The Four Diamonds stand for wonderful attributes strength wisdom courage and honesty Christopher Millard was a talented inspiring young man who used these qualities in his struggle with cancer.**

**8. I didn’t read the sign that said “Warning keep out” as a result I fell down a mineshaft that was very very deep.**

**9. Later in the day Mr. Truex was tired and sore he shouldn’t have benched 250 lbs for 25 reps.**

**10. Sing us a song Mr. Piano man sing us a song tonight for we’re all in the mood for a melody and you’ve got us feeling alright.**

**Answers:**

**1.Don’t send me the letter; deliver it, please!**

**2. Before our government existed, people relied on the British; this, however, wouldn’t last for long.**

**3. At our garage sale, we sold several valuable items, including a Pez dispenser, a used cat litter box, and three unused diapers.**

**4. During the test, you will need to know the following concepts: erosion, chemical weathering, and chronic halitosis.**

**5. The use of a fog machine was approved, but at 10:37, the fire alarm was set off.**

**6. Listen, I have given you what you need: a compass, a map, a whistle, and a first-aid kit; don’t get lost or injured!**

**7. The Four Diamonds stand for wonderful attributes: strength, wisdom, courage, and honesty; Christopher Millard was a talented, inspiring young man who used these qualities in his struggle with cancer.**

**8. I didn’t read the sign that said “Warning: Keep Out”; as a result, I fell down a mineshaft that was very, very deep.**

**9. Later in the day, Mr. Truex was tired and sore; he shouldn’t have benched 250 lbs. for 25 reps.**

**10. Sing us a song, Mr. Piano man; sing us a song tonight. For we’re all in the mood for a melody, and you’ve got us feeling alright.**